

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing advertising to a subscriber through a set top communications box connected to a television, the set top communications box having a connection to a global computer network, the method comprising:

storing icons and associated advertising information on a server connected to the global computer network;

transmitting the icons and associated advertising information to the set top communications box;

displaying an icon on the television screen using the set top communications box, ~~the displayed icon being independent of a television program being displayed on the television screen by the set top communications box;~~

wherein the displayed icon is not selected for display based on the subject matter of the television program being displayed on the television screen;

wherein the advertising information associated with the displayed icon is targeted based on information of the subscriber;

detecting an input signal indicating that the displayed icon has been selected with an input device for the set top communications box;

retrieving the advertising information associated with the selected icon from with the set top communications box after detecting that the icon was selected; and

displaying the advertising information on the television screen with the set top communications box.

2. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein displaying the advertising information comprises reformatting a television program shown on the television screen and displaying the advertising information in a distinct frame on the television screen.

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein displaying the icon comprises superimposing a semi-transparent icon over the television program being displayed on the television screen.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~wherein detecting the input signal further comprises receiving a no input received signal after a fixed period of displaying the icon, the method further comprising displaying a second icon on the television screen in place of the icon a first icon if no input signal is detected for a fixed period of time.~~

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the fixed period is between 1 minute and 5 minutes after the icon is first displayed.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein transmitting the icons and associated advertising information comprises transmitting the icons to a memory in the set top communications box for display on the television screen and ~~wherein when in response to said detecting~~ the input signal indicating that the icon has been selected ~~has been detected~~, transmitting a request for the associated advertising information to with the set top communications box.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising displaying the associated advertising information in place of the television program being displayed.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein transmitting the icons and associated advertising information comprises transmitting the icons to a memory in the set top communications box for display on the television screen and ~~wherein when in response to said detecting~~ the input signal indicating that the icon has been selected ~~has been detected~~, transmitting a

request for the associated advertising information to with the set top communications box.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~detecting the input signal further comprises receiving a no input received signal after a fixed period of displaying the icon, the method further comprising displaying a second icon on the television screen in place of the icon a first icon if no input signal is detected for a fixed period of time.~~

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the fixed period is between 1 minute and 5 minutes after the icon is first displayed.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein displaying the icon comprises superimposing a semi-transparent icon over the television program being displayed on the television screen.

12 – 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A method of providing advertising information to a subscriber through a set-top box connected to a television, the method comprising:

downloading by a set-top box an advertising icon from an advertising server through the Internet;

downloading by the set-top box an advertising information associated with the advertising icon from the advertising server through the Internet;

displaying by the set-top box a television program on a television screen and the downloaded advertising icon on the television screen at the same time;

wherein the displayed advertising icon is not selected for display based on the subject matter of the television program being displayed;

wherein the advertising information associated with the displayed icon is targeted based on information of the subscriber;

receiving through an input device for the set-top box a user selection of the displayed icon; and

displaying by the set-top box the advertising information associated with the selected icon on the television screen.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein:
the icon has an associated link pointing to the associated advertising information; and

the step of downloading by the set-top box an advertising icon includes requesting a download of the associated advertising information from the advertising server using the associated link when the user has selected the displayed icon.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the step of downloading by the set-top box an advertising icon includes:
after the user selection is received, requesting a download of the associated advertising information from the advertising server; and
receiving the requested advertising information by the set-top box.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein displaying the advertising information includes displaying the television program being displayed on the television screen in a first frame and displaying the advertising information in a second frame different from the first frame.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising displaying a different icon on the television screen when no user selection is received for a selected period of time.

23. (Currently amended) A set-top box for displaying television programs and user-selected advertising information comprising:

a modem connected to the Internet and operable to communicate with an advertising server through the Internet;

a user input device operable to receive user input; and
a processor connected to the modem and the user input device, and
operable to:

download through the modem an advertising icon and an advertising
information associated with the advertising icon from the advertising server through
the Internet,

display a television program on a television screen and the downloaded
advertising icon on the television screen at the same time, and

wherein the displayed advertising icon is not selected for display based on
the subject matter of the television program being displayed on the television
screen;

wherein the advertising information associated with the displayed icon is
targeted based on information of the subscriber;

receive through the input device a user selection of the displayed advertising
icon, and

display the advertising information associated with the selected advertising
icon on the television screen.

24. (Previously presented) The set-top box according to claim 23,
wherein after the user selection is received from the input device, the processor
requests a download of the associated advertising information from the advertising
server and receives the requested advertising information for display on the
television screen.

25. (Previously presented) The set-top box according to claim 23,
wherein the processor displays the television program on the television screen in a
first frame and displays the advertising information in a second frame different from
the first frame.

26. (Previously presented) The set-top box according to claim 23, wherein the processor displays a different icon on the television screen when no user selection is received from the input device for a selected period of time.

27. (New) The set-top box of claim 23, wherein the information of the subscriber comprises location information of the subscriber.

28. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the information of the subscriber comprises location information of the subscriber.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the information of the subscriber comprises location information of the subscriber.